

ALL GERMANY COMPLAINING OF INCREASED COST OF FOODSTUFFS

Daily Some Newspaper Makes Fresh Expose, With Middleman Usually Blamed

(Associated Press)

BERLIN, Germany.—From every part of Germany come in increasing number complaints of the ever mounting cost of living—especially of eating—and coupled with them more and more frequently the charge that the middleman is to blame, and that speculation, not shortage of food, is responsible for jacking up prices to an unprecedented height.

Scarcely a day goes by but the food question is aired in at least one of the newspapers. The middleman refutes the charge that he is at fault quite as regularly as it is made, with the result, as the Tagblatt said, that the more earnestly the true explanation is sought, the more muddled becomes the whole subject.

Butter has been the last commodity to go up. It had reached a three-mark-a-pound (75 cents) figure and was advancing daily when the authorities stepped in and anchored the price at two marks, 80 pfennigs, where it still remains. There is, further, a strong agitation for the government seizure of all butter, just as grain and other things have been seized and then dealt out equitably and systematically. One reason for this agitation is seen in South Germany, where a physician reports that the largest creamery in his district is paying the farmers at the rate of 1.40 marks for 10 liters of milk that are necessary for one pound of butter and is selling the

product wholesale at 2.30 in Saxony; consequently the creamery refused to sell any of its butter at home, but for months had been sending all it could make to the north. An additional profit came from the buttermilk.

Rabbits Are Costly. October is the rabbit season in Germany, and it had been anticipated this year particularly, as the people were in need of this usually inexpensive yet appetizing food. When the season opened, however, it was found that rabbits were scarce instead of plentiful, and were to be had only at prohibitive prices—ranging from 5.50 to 7 marks (\$1.27 to \$1.75). It was charged that the middleman had been holding back the supply with intent to increase the prices, but that charge is met by the assertion that the number of bunters this year is smaller than ever before and the number of rabbits shot is correspondingly smaller. Hence, by the law of supply and demand, prices have gone up. It is also pointed out that ammunition, guns and equipment for the hunt are dearer than ever.

The recent experience of a Berlin banker indicates that there may be some truth in the charges against the middleman. He purchased a pullet in a Berlin game store at 3.75 marks a pound, his protest being met with the assertion that the farmer's country price was so high that it was impossible to retail the bird for less. Yet the next day he found he was able to buy a similar fowl in a suburb for 1.30. He took both birds to the chef of a big Berlin restaurant and was assured that in weight, quality and every other particular the two were identical.

FOOD SCARCITY PINCH IS FELT BY PORTUGUESE

(Associated Press)

LISBON, Portugal.—Portugal is more remote from the seat of war than any other country in Europe, but it is suffering a scarcity of food that is as serious as that in some of the belligerent countries.

Provision stores and depots are the scenes of almost daily riots in protest against the conditions. One night last month, for instance, a mob of 2000 men, some of them armed with pick-axes and other implements, stormed the provision store of an important English dealer in the Almada district and plundered the place. The Republican Guard, which crossed the river to restore order, was received by the mob by shots and bombs. The guard fired several volleys, and numerous persons on both sides were wounded.

The scarcity of food is due in part to the fact that successive governments of Portugal have bound themselves to supply Great Britain with certain quantities of provisions sent to Gibraltar. Under this agreement large numbers of cattle and miscellaneous provisions are sent out of the country every week, with the result that there has been almost no meat in the markets of Lisbon. The egg supply is also less than half of what it is in ordinary times, the shortage being partly due to the fact that a good many eggs are sent surreptitiously over the border into Spain, where they may be sold for double the price fixed officially by the government in the food markets here.

Missionary workers from Boston, Washington, Philadelphia and other cities were in attendance at the opening of the 48th annual convention of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Congregational church at Burlington, Vermont.

Miss Mary Marks, a woman voter was arrested in San Francisco for electioneering at the balloting for city and county officers.

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BOLIVIA USING MOVIES TO SHOW ITS RESOURCES

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The republic of Bolivia in South America is the first foreign country to make use of the movies in advertising its industries among the businessmen of the United States. Four reels of films have been prepared, based upon subjects that are intended to give some idea of the wealth, resources and business activities and customs of that nation, and these have already been shown to several organizations of American businessmen, through the courtesy of the Bolivian minister at Washington.

The Chicago branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, has had several opportunities to present these views before important clubs and associations, and a notable degree of interest was aroused. While much attention has been given in the past few months to South American affairs, this is the first time that any considerable number of businessmen has been able to observe the actual daily conditions under which the activities of one of the nations take place.

This method of gaining the attention of the people of the United States is found to be effective to a degree exceeding anything that could be accomplished by printed descriptions, and at the several exhibitions of the films in the district around Chicago, the representatives of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce have noted the value that was placed upon the views by men who have in the past had no dealings with South America, but were looking to an extension of trade in that direction.

The film and the lantern slide are both being used by the bureau to bring

GERMANS FACE TRUTH ABOUT BIG DECLINE IN COUNTRY'S BIRTHRATE

(By Associated Press)

BERLIN, Germany.—With the formal foundation on October 18 of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Bevölkerungspolitik," roughly translated, the "German Society for Population Increase," the efforts of a relatively small body of men to check the decline that has been noticeable in the German birthrate for more than 40 years have at last won widespread recognition.

It has taken the war, with its terrible inroads on the pick of German manhood, to bring thousands to a realization of the soundness of the claims of the few—that the birthrate of the Empire is going backward, and that, after the war, Germany faces the retrogression that has been going on in France if something is not done.

The new society, which informally has been in existence for three months, has mapped out very definite, concrete plans for combating the ever-increasing childlessness of the population. These plans include a certain amount of legislation which apparently is approved by nearly all parties, and an educational program by medical and pedagogical circles. The legislation includes a revision of taxation schedules which shall place an equal burden upon the family man and the bachelor so that the latter will be "literally driven into matrimony." It includes "motherhood premiums" intended to counteract the economic difficulty of bringing children into the world, and the burden of supporting them.

Of great importance in the eyes of the founders of the new society, the plans contemplate a regulation of disease so rigid that the present tendency to sterility, admittedly great, will be greatly lessened, especially when taken in conjunction with the

various sections of this country into touch with the foreign trade work, for the views relating to the work of the bureau itself have been cordially received when exhibited by the various branch offices throughout the United States.

inclination toward earlier marriage, which, it is hoped, can be brought about. The society counts on a campaign to decrease the training period of trades and professions so that young men will become money earners at an earlier time, and upon educational work by family physicians and teachers.

OUTING CLASS WAS UNABLE TO REACH GARDENS

Last Saturday for the first time the outing class of the Young Women's Christian Association failed to reach its destination. This class, which has braved rain and mud to see the points of interest about Honolulu, was halted by a little slime on the rocks just beyond the Fall at a turn so sharp and a grade so steep that the big car skidded around and faced Honolulu, despite the driver's best efforts to continue to Kaneohe. The car was almost empty at the time, for warning had been received from workmen who were repairing the road, and at no time was any one in the slightest danger. The party remained for two hours, until the wind had dried the road sufficiently to permit the return to be made in safety.

The party was one of the largest attracted by the course, and at the start the weather seemed auspicious. The view from the Fall was never lovelier, and to those who were seeing it for the first time any chance which made it possible to linger here for two hours was good fortune. Nevertheless, there was considerable disappointment at not seeing the coral gardens. Next Saturday afternoon the class

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will visit the College of Hawaii, a trip which can be made regardless of the weather. This will afford an opportunity first, to see the work done at this school, the only institution of collegiate rank in the territory, and second, to study the fauna and flora of the islands through the remarkable collections of Professor H. Lingworth and Professor Rock. It is requested that advance registration be made at the office of the Young Women's Christian Association either in person or by telephone.

The American steamer Hooking, detained at Halifax, N. S., for prize court proceedings, narrowly escaped being driven ashore during a heavy blow. She was hauled out of danger by four tugs.

OUTLIVES HIS SAVINGS, AT 103 ASKS FOR PIONEER'S PENSION

SEATTLE, Wash.—Having outlived the sum he had set aside for old age John Finlayson, Alaska gold miner, now 103 years old, has asked for a pension under the Alaska territorial law for aged pioneers.

Finlayson prospected and mined gold in California and Oregon until he was 56 years old, then went to British Columbia and Yukon territory and explored large areas into which white men had never penetrated. For many years Finlayson has lived at Wrangell, Alaska, subsisting on the savings of his placer gold mining.

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